

### Remarks/ Arguments

In response to the Office Action mailed June 23, 2004, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the objections to the specification and the claims.

Claims 8, 9 and 23-24 remain.

Claims 8, 9, and 23-24 are being cancelled.

Claims 31-40 are being added.

Former Claims 8 – 9 and 23 - 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tofte* (U.S. Patent 4,747,142 ) (hereinafter "the *Tofte* reference"). in further view of *Fink* (U.S. Patent 5,642,542) (hereinafter "the *Fink* reference"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, in view of the replacement claims set forth above.

The *Tofte* reference does not teach or suggest the feature of driving a two-speaker system across a three – wire interface. In particular, the *Tofte* reference does not teach or suggest circuits and methods in which left and right output signals are generated from a combination of left and right input signals and a common mode output signal, wherein the left and common mode output signals drive one speaker and the right and common mode output signals drive another speaker.

The *Tofte* reference instead only discloses a system that drives *three* speakers (i.e. true left, true right and true center) from left and right input signals utilizing single – ended lines. The *Tofte* reference clearly does not show any of these three speakers is driven between one of the left and right channel output signals and the common mode signal.

Similarly, the *Fink* reference unquestionably does not teach or suggest generating left and right channel output signals from a combination of corresponding left and right channel input signals and a common mode output signal, wherein the

common output signal is also a combination of the left and right input signals. The *Fink* reference also does not disclose or suggest driving two speakers, one using the left channel output signal and the common mode signal and another using the right channel output signal and the common mode signal.

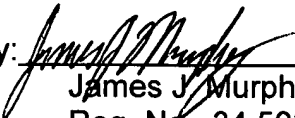
No new matter has been added; the claims have been merely amended to more particularly claim the subject matter Applicants believes is inventive. Applicants respectfully submit that the Claims as they now stand are patentably distinct over the art cited during the prosecution thereof.

Applicant respectfully requests a Second Month Extension of Time to File this Response. Enclosed with this paper is Form PTO/SB/22 with Extension Fees in the amount of \$430.00 as reflected on the PTO/SB/17 Fee Transmittal.

With the addition of no new claims, no additional filing fees are due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 20-0821 of Thompson & Knight LLP.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this paper or the present application in general, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (214) 969 - 1749.

Respectfully submitted,  
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